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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 98% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 65,880 | Nifty 19,611 | Gold 60,000 | Silver 73,750 | Dollar 83.13 | Euro 89.11 | GBP 104.43

CITY / PAGE 3

STEALTH MODE

Police data shows an average of 50 theft cases occur daily in city

CITY / PAGE 4

SCHOOL'S IN

Transport operators' strike will not affect school functioning, BMTC services

Copper coils and oil go missing from electrical transformers installed at Aerospace Park. Transformers are not charged as one receiving station is yet to start functioning

PILFERERS' PARADISE

No security guards to keep vigil on premises spread over hundreds of acres

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Aerospace Park seems to be a go-to place for people to flick whatever they can lay their hands on. Be it electrical cables, bulbs, oil or copper wires -- it's a free for all at the park as there is hardly any security at the premises.

BM had previously reported about Aerospace Park in November 2019 when the chief engineer of Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) generously allowed an electrical contractor to quote Rs 52,890 for each LED bulb fitted to the street lights along roads developed at the park.

Now, a few electrical contractors are incurring huge losses due to the theft of electrical equipment including high mast lights, oil and copper wires from pole-mount transformers at the Layout of Hi-Tech Defence and Aerospace Park Phase II.

"A theft of cables took place in July last year. I complained to Channarayapatna Police Station in Devanahalli Taluk. The police inspector assured me that vigil would be be raised to catch the miscreants responsible for the theft of electrical

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **Who will compensate the contractors for the losses incurred due to the theft of oil and copper cables of transformers? Is it not the responsibility of the police and security guards appointed by the KIADB to prevent thefts here?**
>
> — An electrical contractor

Conflict control

Experts stress on need to evaluate forest reserves' carrying capacity and to have SOP to handle human, wildlife conflict situations

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Even as state Environment Minister Ishwar B Khandre, in a meeting held on Tuesday, expressed concern over increasing incidents of human-wildlife conflict, wildlife conservationists and experts say that an ecological assessment of forest reserves to evaluate the carrying capacity of these landscapes is of prime importance. They also highlight the lack of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for Elephant Task Force personnel for handling human-wildlife conflict situations.

According to Avinash Krishnan, a wildlife conservationist and director, science and conservation at A Rocha India, the carrying capacity of reserves is a pertinent issue that has been overlooked so far. There is a dearth of empirical study that can anecdotally establish that the reserves have reached their carrying capacity and thus the spillover effect has led to recent conflict and death cases.

"We do not have a systematic and scientific assessment of the carrying capacity of our reserves. There are some studies done in Africa for a host of species that enunciate this requirement. We should look at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Mitra Habba

Join Mitra Habba, a celebration of the inclusion of neurodiversity on a delightful day filled with flea markets, panel discussions, Interactive music, dance, art, rhythm workshops, delicious food and engaging activities for families and children.
Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: September 9, 10 am – 6 pm

02 Art talk

Join the special talk by Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh, Painter, Poet, and Art Critic on 'Dakoji Devraj and the Art of Printmaking in India'
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art
When: September 9, 5.30 pm

03 'BETRAYAL' unfolds

Aadyam Theatre is all set to present 'BETRAYAL,' a brilliant theatrical masterpiece scripted by the legendary Harold Pinter. The play revolves around a love triangle that presents a searingly tender picture of fragile memories, wounded hearts, and how easily our grasp of reality can unravel.
Where: Ranga Shankara Auditorium
When: September 15, 7.30 pm

New pain relief solution

BMRCI initiates pain clinics catering to patients with acute and chronic pains

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The awareness of pain clinics and their services remains limited in India, leaving many patients in continous distress

September is designated as Pain Awareness Month by the International Association for the Study of Pain, uniting pain physicians and global associations to shed light on chronic pain issues. In India, the awareness of pain clinics and their services remains limited, leaving many patients in distress.

Addressing this need, the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) has launched a pain clinic at Victoria Hospital, offering relief to those suffering from acute and chronic pain.

The pain clinic was initially started two months ago as a pilot project; however, due to good demand at the clinic, BMCRI has decided to continue clinic operations and officially launched the clinic on Wednesday. Medical Education Minister Dr Sharanaprakash Patil inaugurated the clinic.

Approximately 30% of the world's population is suffering from pain, and the prevalence of chronic pain is about 19% in India. In the past two months, the clinic has seen nearly 100 outpatients, and more than 50 pain interventions have been performed so far. The Pain Clinic offers services to patients suffering from various acute pain conditions, post-operative pain, and chronic pain conditions like cancer pain, post-herpetic neuralgia, Trigeminal Neuralgia, Diabetic neuropathic pain, and some musculoskeletal pain.

The clinic was started under the guidance of Dr Ramesh Krishna K, Dean at BMCRI, and the Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology, Dr Ramachandriah. The pain clinic is managed by trained pain physicians, Dr Satish Kumar MN, and a team of doctors.

Dr. Satish Kumar said, "Patients who have acute pain and can be treated with medicines are given painkillers. Those whose pain is still not alleviated with medications are given PRP injections. Patients with spondylitis, musculoskeletal pains, and cancer pains are treated here. Shortly, we will also be the first government medical college in Karnataka to procure the minimally invasive advanced radiofrequency ablation machine for treating chronic pain conditions. In this method, a particular nerve will be targeted, and the patient can be pain-free for a long time."

The Pain Clinic offers services to patients suffering from various acute pain conditions, post-operative pain, and chronic pain conditions

According to doctors, chronic pain affects people not only physically but also mentally, financially, and socially. It can result in sleeping disorders, depression, and irritability, further lowering their quality of life. Moreover, poor people who are dependent on physical labour might experience job loss, a decrease in income, and further land up in poverty.

These people are especially prone to painkiller drug abuse, which might lead to kidney and liver injury. Early intervention will help provide pain relief and improve the quality of life.

Mango frenzy: BLR airport's remarkable export growth

124% growth in mango exports sets three-year tonnage record

As the mango season concludes, Kempegowda International Airport (KIAB) celebrates a remarkable surge in mango exports. BLR Airport has achieved an impressive 124% growth in mango exports this season, setting a three-year tonnage record, thanks to its consistent upward export trend.

In 2023, BLR Airport processed an export of 6, 84,648 kgs of mangoes, showcasing a significant rise from the 3, 05,521 kgs exported in the previous year. Furthermore, this season's exports saw an 86% increase in the number of pieces, with approximately 17 lakh pieces of mangoes being exported.

BLR Airport's export network spans more than 60 international destinations. However, it is the thriving export of mangoes to the United States this year, where prominent metropolitan regions such as Dallas Fort Worth, Washington D.C., and San Francisco, that has played an important role in fostering this growth.

"BLR Airport has emerged as a driving force in facilitating perishable exports from India. With substantial volume shares across Indian airports, we have played an important role in enhancing the global reach of South India's mangoes. Our commitment to streamlined cool-port export operations underscores BLR Airport's significance as a premier gateway connecting the world to the rich produce of our region," said Satyaki Raghunath, chief strategy and development officer at BIAL. **— BMB**

BBMP fights dengue surge vigorously

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally woken up to tackle the 'stinging' menace. In response to a significant increase in reported dengue cases within Bengaluru's city limits, officials have launched a comprehensive initiative to combat this alarming health issue. Dengue cases in the city have surged by an astonishing 226 per cent compared to the previous year, as highlighted in a recent edition of Bangalore Mirror.

The Chief Health Officer (Public Health) of the civic agency, Balsundar, emphasised that intensive mosquito control operations are now underway and will continue until further notice. To raise awareness and educate about dengue prevention, schools, colleges, and local communities are organising awareness programs. **— BMB**

Thief, thief: Nearly 1,500 theft cases in city a month

Police data indicates that an average of 50 cases occur daily in B'luru

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According to state police data, Bengaluru is witnessing around 1,500 cases of theft each month. The latest crime review for July reveals the city recorded 1,503 theft cases during that month alone. This data showcases a concerning trend, that an average of 50 theft cases occur daily in the city.

A recent robbery at a medical supply store in the city's Vijayanagar was captured on CCTV. The surveillance footage shows masked assailants on motorcycles, with one of them forcibly breaking through the medical store's shutter while another keeps watch on the street. After grabbing cash from the counter, the criminal quickly flees the scene.

During the robbery, two employees of the medical shop, who were sleeping inside the store, woke up upon realising they were being robbed. The criminals fled as the workers reacted to the commotion, as seen in the video.

This incident occurred on the night of August 31 within the jurisdiction of the Govind Rajnagar police station, and a case has been registered.

In a separate case, the Sanjayanagara police apprehended a suspect involved in a daylight robbery, seizing 211 grams of gold jewellery and Rs 75,000 in cash.

The police initiated an investigation following a complaint that a thief had entered a house through the back door and stolen gold ornaments in Patelappa Layout.

During their inquiry, the police identified several CCTV cameras near the crime scene. By reviewing the footage from BMTC buses that were operating on that route at the time of the crime, they identified one of the accused individuals and took them into custody for questioning.

The investigation revealed that this accused person had previously served time in jail in 2023 for a house theft case at Yeshwanthpur police station.

In another similar incident, three suspects were arrested for theft, and authorities seized 129 grams of gold jewellery and Rs 1.08 lakh in cash.

A theft case was registered at the Bagalagunte police station based on a complaint filed by the victim, who reported that someone had broken the door lock of their house in Bhyraveshwara Nagar, located under the Bagalagunte police station's jurisdiction. The stolen items included 129 grams of gold jewellery, Rs 1.08 lakh in cash, and two two-wheelers used during the crime.

Purple line gaps to be filled after Sept 15

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Clarifications will be submitted to metro rail safety officer by Sept 7; pending work to be done after that

The inauguration of the entire Purple line, from Challaghatta to Whitefield without any missing links, has once again been pushed to after September 15. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Managing Director Anjum Parvez said that the corporation hopes to complete all the pending work by September 15. He said that clarifications asked by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) will be submitted by September 7, after which the inspection and pending works will be finished.

Recently, trial runs have been conducted with a six-coach metro train on the KR Puram to Baiyappanahalli stretch, followed by a load test on the Open Web Grinder (OWG) installed above the Indian Railways track in Benniganahalli. This particular stretch has received much attention as it will connect the tech corridor to most of the city. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the extended stretch from KR Puram to Whitefield on the Purple line, despite a lack of connection between Baiyappanahalli and KR Puram due to pending work in Benniganahalli. Commuters have been disappointed with the missing link deadline being pushed from the initial July 15 to August and now September.

OPENS TOMORROW
BANGALORE'S MOST AWAITED
WEDDING & JEWELLERY EXHIBITION
IMAGE : LOUKYA
THE TIMES GROUP
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VIJAY KARNATAKA
ASIA Wedding Show
Wedding & Jewellery Exhibition
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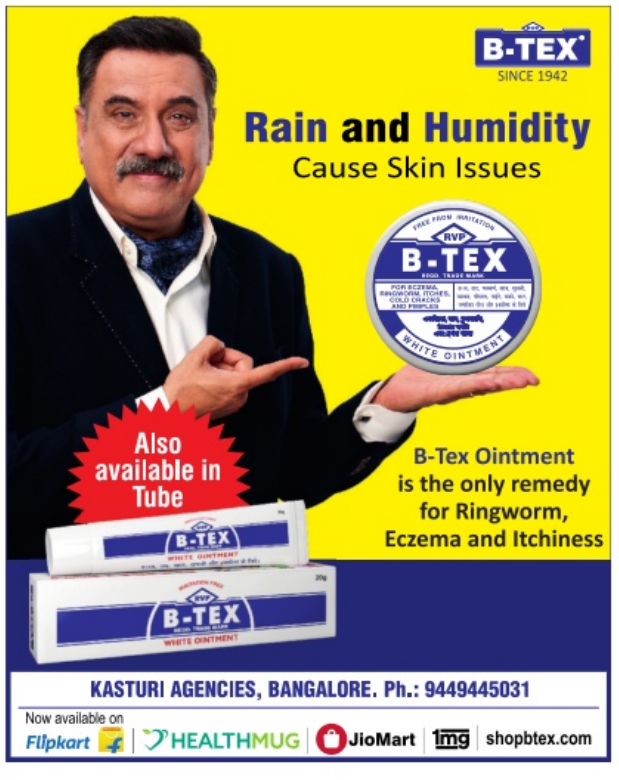

No school holidays amid transport strike threat

BMTC officials reassured that there will be no disruptions to BMTC or KSRTC bus services

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Around nine lakh private commercial vehicles, including autos, taxis, corporate vehicles, and buses, will remain off the road in the city

Amid a looming strike by transport operators next Monday, school associations have clarified that no holidays have been declared, assuring that schools will maintain regular operations. School bus services will also continue as usual. There are reports indicating that transport associations may seek support from school drivers to participate in the strike and refrain from work.

D. Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of the Associated Managements of English Medium Schools (KAMS) told Bangalore Mirror, "Currently, there are no discussions regarding school drivers participating in the protest. Our school drivers will maintain their regular schedules, ensuring no disruptions to school bus operations. However, individual schools will make decisions based on the situation." Meanwhile, BMTC officials have reassured the public that there will be no disruptions to BMTC or KSRTC bus services, as the strike was called by a private transporters' body and will not affect government-run services.

> **"Our school drivers will maintain their regular schedules, ensuring no disruptions to school bus operations** – D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary, KAMS

For those who rely on cabs or autos to reach their workplaces or destinations, planning for Monday's strike is advised. Natraj Sharma, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Association on Wednesday said that they had given the state government a deadline until August 30 to address their demands. As the government failed to reach a consensus, they convened a meeting of all associations and decided to call a strike on the following Monday, affecting the entire city of Bengaluru.

"I want to discuss the issues with the government so that we can sort it out. However, the Transport Minister has blocked my phone number and despite calling multiple times, the calls are getting disconnected with just one ring. Hence, we have no other measure but to go on strike", he said adding that around nine lakh private commercial vehicles, including autos, airport taxis, maxi cabs, corporate vehicles, and buses, will remain off the road in the city on September 11 as the federation of 32 private transport associations has called for a city-wide strike. The federation has also sought support from drivers from other districts to join the protest march in Bengaluru on that day.

Sharma had previously stated that they submitted a set of 30 demands to the Karnataka Transport Minister and were promised that 28 of them would be addressed by August 30. However, the government has once again failed to address their needs. The federation emphasised that while the initial protest was planned for July 27, it was postponed based on government assurances that have since remained unfulfilled. The federation also highlighted that it represents over five lakh autos, three lakh taxis, and more than 55,000 private buses in Karnataka, providing direct employment to nearly 20 lakh individuals and indirect employment to over 50 lakh citizens.

Among the demands in the charter are the 'one airport one fare scheme' and extending the benefits of the Shakti scheme to private buses. Sharma explained that they have suffered significant losses due to the Shakti scheme and are requesting that these benefits be extended to private buses as well.

Rural areas have been particularly hard-hit, with even auto rickshaws in rural districts like Kolar and North Karnataka experiencing income declines of more than 45%. The federation is also advocating for uniform fare determination for the airport through the 'one airport one fare' scheme, as per their representatives.

Know your driver with Metro Mitra

Metro passengers are eagerly awaiting application's launch as it promises to resolve auto unavailability issues

Planning to take an auto ride but unsure about the driver? Metro Mitra, a new service, officially launched on Wednesday, provides all the essential driver information. Pattabhiraman, the Metro Mitra Organising Secretary, said, "There will be a QR code for commuters to scan, allowing access to essential details. The fare structure is based on the meter fare plus an additional Rs 10. Once you scan, you'll receive information including the driver's name, photograph, and experience. It will also indicate the languages spoken by the driver, along with the auto's registration number. Moreover, an option for auto booking will be available to commuters. This service covers travel up to four kilometres from the Metro station, with a minimum fare of Rs 30 plus Rs 10. Beyond the first kilometre, the charge is Rs 15 per kilometre. The additional Rs 10 is intended to cover software charges for the driver. For the first ten operations, the driver bears this cost, but from the eleventh trip onwards, they are exempt from any charges to the organisation."

Metro passengers are eagerly awaiting the application's launch as it promises to resolve one of the city's major commuting issues: the unavailability of autos for first and last-mile connectivity at government-regulated metered fares. ARDU, the driving force behind this initiative, was previously involved in the development of Namma Yatri, a Bengaluru-based

aggregator application known for its no-commission policy.

The new application will offer metro passengers the convenience of booking an auto ride in conjunction with purchasing a metro ticket. This can be done through either the BMRCL's application or the metro's WhatsApp chatbot feature, utilising the ONDC (open network for digital commerce) model.

The initiative also aims to instil professionalism within the auto community by adhering to government meter fare guidelines. Once an auto ride is booked, commuters will receive a one-time password (OTP) along with other ride details. Designated auto drivers will pick up commuters from Metro Mitra zones strategically located near metro stations.

This innovative solution seeks to streamline metro travel and enhance the overall commuting experience for passengers in Bengaluru. The Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU) had initially announced a trial run of the application, a WhatsApp-based chatbot, with a scheduled release date of August 15. Unfortunately, multiple technical issues and the time-consuming rectification process had earlier delayed the release. — BMB

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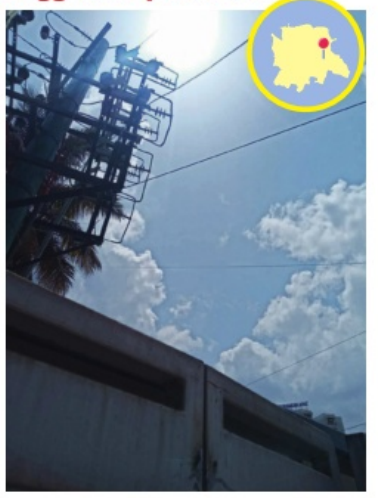
Damaged pavement

Dairy Circle

A temporary metal pavement structure erected by BRMCL at Bangalore Dairy Junction has suffered damage, obstructing the smooth passage for pedestrians.

Cable troubles

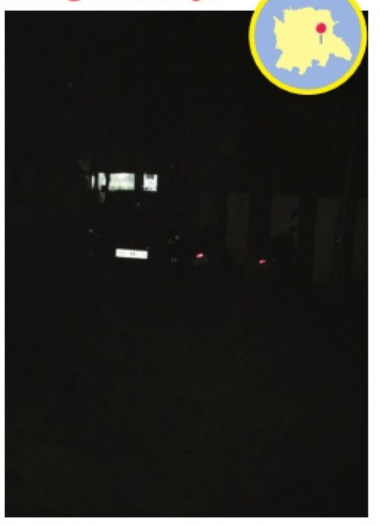
Kaggadasapura Road



An OFC cable attached to a transformer opposite CAIR on Kaggadasapura Road raises concerns in CV Raman Nagar.

Dark lane

Yellagonda Palya



Ward Number 111 of Temple Street in Yellagonda Palya lacks streetlights.

HC puts paid to BBMP's land acquisition plan near lake

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The Revenue Department's recent notification regarding property acquisition by the BBMP near Pattandur Agrahara Lake in Whitefield that was giving sleepless nights to residents and lake activists has been stayed by the High Court. The court's order came on Tuesday after a writ petition was filed by the St Joseph's School a few days ago against the Palike's effort to acquire land, falling inside the school property.

"The civic agency was trying to acquire the property to build the illegal road violating the lake's buffer zone. The court's order is a much-needed relief for the public and the two schools that were threatened by the illegal road project. It is great news for Whitefield and for the thousands of poor and middle-class class students who study in these schools," said a resident of the area.

Locals feared the acquisition of properties was taken up to revive the road project within the buffer zone of Pattandur Agrahara Lake. The project was earlier suspended by the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) after it issued a cease notice to the BBMP last year.

Activists allege the project was being pursued by some BBMP officials to build the stretch from the Whitefield Main road to a real estate land bank located behind the two schools.

"Using this project as an excuse, some BBMP officials have been attempting to acquire land from the schools, though an alternate road exists via the Muneshwara Temple Road to the property. This is being done to help the land owners obtain higher floor area ratio and better access from the main road at the cost of damaging two schools, greenery, potential rajakaluve, leading to multiple violations," alleged a lake activist.

He added that an investigation should be carried out to reveal the reasons behind carrying out the construction work as the land does not even belong to the BBMP.

Bangalore Mirror
Deja vu: Plan to build road through lake?
Notice on acquisition of property around Pattandur Agrahara Lake worries activists
BM had reported on Aug 24 about the land acquisition plan

Registration plate decision unsettles local shopkeepers

Transport dept has awarded contracts to a few pvt firms, say manufacturers

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The decision by the Transport Department to make High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) mandatory for all vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019, has ignited a controversy that has left local number plate manufacturers and affixing shops concerned. They say that this has jeopardised their livelihoods, as the Transport Department has awarded contracts for HSRP production and sales to a few private firms.

Akhila Karnataka Vehicle Number Plate Manufacturers and Sellers' Association president, S Satish, said, "The transport department has given contracts to a few companies to make and sell HSRPs. The plates are being manufactured in Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai and supplied to Bengaluru. Over 25,000 people depend on this for their livelihoods." Syed Pasha, a number plate manufacturer, added that many of them have not had formal education. "We have been in this business for a long time. It is our sole source of income. If we lose our jobs, what will we do? We have loans to repay."

Fixing of number plates can be done at homes or offices

August 18 circular

The controversy revolves around an August 18 circular issued by the Karnataka Transport Department, which local manufacturers argue violates the Central Motor Vehicle Act and Rules (CMVA and CMVR). The circular restricts the supply of HSRPs for both old and new vehicles to only vehicle manufacturers (OEMs) and their dealers, effectively excluding the majority of eligible HSRP manufacturers from the market. This exclusivity has resulted in a monopoly situation enjoyed by four influential HSRP manufacturers, which has in turn led to increased costs for consumers.

> **We have been in this business for a long time. It is our sole source of income. If we lose our jobs, what will we do? We have loans to repay**
>
> –Syed Pasha, number plate manufacturer

One of the key issues is the infringement on consumers' rights to choose affordable HSRP options. The circular enforces higher-priced purchases from a single vendor approved by vehicle manufacturer. This has raised concerns about the exclusion of genuine HSRP makers and of unfair pricing.

On the other hand, the Raahat (Safe Community Foundation) has welcomed the government's initiative. "A unified web portal, www.siam.in, enables vehicle owners to order HSRPs, select dealer locations for affixation, and choose convenient installation dates and times. Affixing HSRPs is a cashless transaction. The State Transport Department has approved the option for affixation at the vehicle owner's residence or workplace.

Waterlogged, flooded roads at Judicial Layout

Residents suffer from BMRCL's faulty drainage work, no action taken by BBMP and SWD dept

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The residents of Kanakpura have been struggling with a longstanding problem concerning the stretch between Yashashvi International School and the Judicial Layout Junction. This road has been in bad condition, aggravated due to yesterday's heavy rainfall, which led to severe water logging due to clogged drains. According to the residents, the root of the issue lies in inadequate underground drainage work carried out during the construction of the green line by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), near the Silk Institute Metro Station. This has left the residents suffering for over two years.

With the Tuesday downpour, the stretch got flooded with the water flowing out of the drain. The commuters were stuck in traffic for a long time. Two-wheeler riders had a tough time riding on the waterlogged road. Even the footpath across the stretch was removed for drainage work and was not fixed back making it difficult for pedestrians to walk.

V K Srivatsa from Changemakers of Kanakpura Road Association said, "We have been struggling with this issue for more than two years. The BMRCL did not address the drainage problem during metro construction, and the underground pipelines are unable to handle excess water during rains, causing it to flood the roads. We reported this issue to officials, but no action has been taken."

Residents also pointed out that the stormwater drain is present opposite to the judicial layout, there is no connectivity from the judicial layout to the stormwater drain and hence the water is not flowing down

BBMP removes the entire footpath but doesn't bother to restore it

smoothly. "A culvert needs to be constructed that connects both sides of the road. We have been following up with this in ward committee meetings and even in Janaspandana but so far no action has been taken. The BBMP stormwater drain is giving us assurances to have the issue sorted. But the problem has persisted for years. With a little downpour, the road turns into a lake, " added Srivatsa.

The residents added that when they approach the officials, the major roads department states that it is the BBMP stormwater department that needs to assist with the problem. And SWD departments state it should be done by the major roads. On this part, the residents pointed out that the stretch has also become a garbage dump yard. Despite the garbage being cleared up from the place, there is no strong enforcement and the dumping continues.

> **We have been struggling for more than two years. The underground pipelines are unable to handle excess water during rains, causing it to flood the roads**
>
> –V K Srivatsa

"The entire footpath has been removed. There is no place for pedestrians to walk. The footpath stones have been put in one corner and are not being restored. The state of the road on one side is also in a bad condition," added another resident.

When questioned, a BBMP official from the Major Roads Department stated, "The stormwater drain needs to be cleared up for the issue to be resolved. We have informed the SWD team to take up the work."

When BM tried contacting the SWD team they were unresponsive for a comment.

Rare leucistic Sambar Deer spotted

A leucistic sambar deer has been recently spotted in the Sangama range of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary during a study conducted on leopards by Dr Sanjay Gubbi and his team. The female sambar was observed in the company of another adult female sambar, leading to speculation that it might be a sub-adult individual accompanied by its mother.

This discovery represents the first recorded photographic evidence of a white variant of the sambar species within this particular landscape. It's worth noting that a white sambar deer was previously documented in Bandipur Tiger Reserve back in 2014.

Gubbi said, "Leucism, the condition responsible for the animal's white or pale skin, occurs due to the absence of pigmentation. It can be a naturally occurring trait from birth, resulting from a phenotypic defect during the animal's development. Leucism differs from albinism, which is characterised by a lack of melanin in the skin and typically includes pink or reddish eyes. Leucistic animals, on the other hand, do not exhibit the characteristic pink eyes associated with albinism. Photographic records like this one provide valuable insights into the biology and ecology of these herbivores, shedding light on aspects that are yet to be fully explored. Sambar deer are categorised as vulnerable species according to the IUCN Red List, underscoring the importance of ongoing research into their unique occurrences. In a previous instance of an Albino dhole was seen in the same area."

White Sambar Deer spotted in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

39 Bengaluru lakes polluted, rated 'Class-E'

Activists demand immediate collaboration to save wildlife and fisheries habitat

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Data from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has revealed an alarm regarding the deteriorating water quality of lakes in Bengaluru. The report reveals that in July 2023, out of the 41 lakes surveyed, a staggering 39 were graded Class-E, signifying a perilous level of pollution. Over the course of 18 months, from January 2022 to July 2023, an average of 29 lakes were found to be consistently polluted every month. Lake activists say that the water is unfit to support wildlife and fisheries, and have urged authorities to collaborate in order to reduce pollution.

Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a lake activist, said that Class E is designated for the use of irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled waste disposal only. "All the water within lakes must fall within Class D, the class which can support the population of wildlife and fisheries according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), if one wants to maintain a habitat. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) as the custodian of lakes makes many promises to create and flourish a habitat, however, they do not monitor the water quality to ensure it," he said. He also added that while the municipal body might not have the required specialisation, they-

BBMP makes promises to create and flourish a habitat but fails

must hire contractors or employ workers with the required knowledge to ensure a healthy habitat within lakes.

Pachhapur also pointed out that there are many water quality parameters including pH, biological oxygen demand (BOD), suspended solids (SS), dissolved oxygen (DO), and total coliform bacteria. However, while the KPSCB collects samples and conducts tests consistently on a monthly basis, they do not put out the collected data along with details of all the parameters, he alleged. "The KSPCB has jurisdiction over 223 lakes across the state with 115 lakes being within the boundaries of Bengaluru alone. The parameters help us understand what is happening within the water of these lakes. For example, if coliform is found through testing, it means that the water is seeing a significant inlet of feces, pointing to problems with maintenance of sewage treatment plants (STPs) or other sources of sewage entry," he said, urging the KSPCB to make all the collected information public for better use. ActionAid Association, where Pachhapur is a programme officer, had earlier conducted a survey regarding data put out by the various pollution control boards across the country and had urged the KSPCB to make data with regard to parameters also public. However, there has been no change. He further said that either of the departments must make an active effort to collaborate with each other to ensure minimum pollution of water within lakes.

Lake activists and residents living around lakes have also pointed out that there is a lack of a proper mechanism for grievance redressal in order for them to flag off signs of pollution. Pachhapur said that every lake should display basic information regarding the contacts of the BBMP engineer responsible as well as the designated maintenance person. "This information can help the local community members to alert them when there is an issue," he said.

Promised BWSSB connection, but tankers only hope

Apartment complex in Kanakapura shown to have water connection, but residents having to hire private tankers

Melvin Mathew
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The Residents of a prestigious apartment complex on Kanakapura Main Road have been largely dependent on borewells and water tankers to meet their water requirements. However, the Consent for Establishment (CFE) issued by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board in 2019 shows that the source of the water will be BWSSB, and 642 KLD of water has been permitted for usage.

Residents have demanded that BWSSB provide the water connection as mentioned in the approval. However, the BWSSB chairman clarified in a tweet on August 23, 2023, that there was no water connection for the apartment complexes.

Residents highlight that discrepancies can also make it difficult for them to obtain permission for borewells. The apartment complex has 657 flats and receives water from 6,000–12,000-litre capacity water tankers daily.

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, resident of a flat here, wrote to the KSPCB Chairman highlighting the discrepancies and pointing out that without a BWSSB connection, the approval is fake and false information has been provided by the developer. Residents requested that KSPCB take necessary action to ensure connection as per approval.

"While the builder was applying for KSPCB approval, they showed that there is a BWSSB water connection of 642 KLD. However, when I checked with the BWSSB chairman, he noted that there was no connection for this apartment. We have been hiring water tankers every day to meet our needs.

We suspect that homebuyers will be exploited at a later stage for providing the same connection. If there is a BWSSB connection, we need the water connection at no additional cost.

It's the responsibility of the builder to provide a water connection, and we should get 642 KLD as per approval," said Padmanabhachar. He said that when the checked with BWSSB officials, they found that some initial deposits were made, but later the area did not get the connection.

> **"It's the responsibility of the builder to provide a water connection, and we should get 642 KLD as per approval**
> – Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, resident of apartment complex

Another resident confirmed this. "We don't have a Cauvery connection for the apartment, and we are relying on borewell to some extent. We have an RO plant that provides water to the kitchens. Now, that apartment complex is nearly 100 per cent occupied, borewell water is not enough. Initially, the builder had provided four borewells, and now they're only yielding 10 per cent of our needs. We are completely dependent on water tankers," a resident informed anonymously.

When questioned about the irregularity, a senior KSPCB official said, "I am not aware of the situation, but it will have to be looked at."

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

After the apartment complex got completely filled up, just borewell water was not enough so tankers are needed

What's behind human-animal conflict?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

range carrying capacity and connected habitat assessment to ascertain if we are experiencing a spillover effect. Research studies so far are mostly based on behaviour and conflict. The elephant population has surged and thus we need to transform our approach and create a knowledge base imperative to understand the current situation," said Krishnan.

Researchers also underline the need for an SOP as ETF personnel as chasing elephants back into the forest is not an easy task and involves risk. Citing two recent cases of human-elephant conflicts leading to the death of a sharpshooter and a forest watcher, experts say some level of negligence led to both accidents.

Sharpshooter Venkatesh was trampled by a tusker in Hassan last week and a forest watcher Girish was killed in an elephant attack in Madikeri on Tuesday. Girish was part of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) assigned to drive elephants away from a coffee estate.

"The Forest Department must have an SOP for the process. In both recent deaths, the personnel were on foot, trying to manage the situation. We cannot eliminate conflict cases as they have been happening for hundreds of years. However, measures such as barricading the forest boundary and managing the situation more systematically will surely bring down the number of lives lost," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher at Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

Experts also caution that while several casualties might indicate a surge in the number of death cases, these incidents are accidental and there is no robust way of implying that the numbers are going up.

"We do not have enough data on spatial and temporal scales to infer that these numbers are increasing concerning the elephant population. A high number of human casualties or conflict incidents can not necessarily be correlated with conflict level.

Human-wildlife conflict is a causal factor and we need to understand the reasons behind this," said a city-based conservationist.

Invasive species

Animals venturing out of forest reserves, according to the experts, might not just be the carrying capacity issue; degrading habitats due to the rapid growth of invasive species such as Lantana and Senna Spectabilis in wildlife habitats might also impact forage and prey base populations, forcing wildlife to venture out of the areas designated to them.

"Today, invasive species like Lantana and Senna spectabilis occupy nearly 40% of the understorey habitat of reserve areas that sustain the foraging needs of elephants and support the source population of carnivores, including the big cats. While forage and water availability can be constraints at certain places due to below-average rainfall this year, we need to look at invasive species spread too. If not addressed, it will compound the push factor severely impacting how animals use their space," added Krishnan.

Rail barricades beneficial

While rail barricades are more effective when compared with other types of barriers, barrier suitability varies on a case-to-case and site-to-site basis.

"Rail barricades are required in certain areas where no other mechanisms are possible. Care should be taken so that these barriers do not end up deflecting animal movement. These management aspects should be based on scientific evaluation and assessment.

This hard barricade can prove to be beneficial. For instance, the northwestern part of Bannerghatta National Park has now been barricaded and the number of human-elephant incidents has gone down," said Krishnan.

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Steal deal at Aerospace Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

equipment. A few days ago, eight high mast bulbs were stolen. Our supervisor lodged a complaint with the Channarayapatna police seeking action against the miscreants,'' said Umesh, an electrical contractor.

A visit to Aerospace Park will give you an idea of the damage done. Electric transformers are found abandoned near electric poles with copper coils and oil removed from them. With the layout of Hi-Tech Defence and Aerospace Park Phase II spreading over hundreds of acres, it is difficult for the contractor or security guards to keep a vigil on thieves.

Each electric transformer needs around 200 litres of oil and some copper coil. Each litre of oil costs around Rs 300. It has become easy for the thieves to steal oil from electrical transformers as these are yet to be charged with electricity. It is due to the delay in the functioning of a receiving station constructed by the KIADB that the electric transformers are not charged.

Expressing concern over the thefts, a contractor, on the condition of anonymity, said the KIADB officials blame contractors if they fail to install electric transformers on time. "Who will compensate the contractors for the losses incurred due to the theft of oil and copper cables of transformers? Is it not the responsibility of the police and security guards appointed by the KIADB to prevent thefts here?'' the electrical contractor asked.

Demanding that the police act tough against the thieves, Umesh said that he is compelled to put up a mesh around the electric poles. "I removed some of the electric transformers from electric poles and kept them in a warehouse to ensure they are safe,'' said Umesh.

Channarayapatna Circle Inspector assured BM that they would look into the matter. "We have already received complaints about the theft of oil from electric transformers. We have registered a first information report (FIR) and an investigation is on,'' the Circle Inspector said.

KIADB assistant engineer Balaram said that measures are being taken to make the receiving station operational in 15 days. "There was a case pending in the court pertaining to acquisition of land. We have availed of permission from the court to go ahead with our plan of making the receiving station operational,'' said the assistant engineer.

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I Snigdha W/O, Akhilesh Kumar R/o 5526 Block E, Pranavas Bsr Gitaaar, Kadubeesanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560103 have changed my name to Snigdha Singh.

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PET PEEVE

Risk of animal-borne diseases is small, but real

Our relationship with pets has changed drastically in recent decades. Pet ownership is at an all-time high, with a recent survey finding 69% of Australian households have at least one pet. We spend an estimated A$33 billion every year on caring for our fur babies.

While owning a pet is linked to numerous mental and physical health benefits, our pets can also harbour infectious diseases that can sometimes be passed on to us. For most people, the risk is low.

But some, such as pregnant people and those with weakened immune systems, are at greater risk of getting sick from animals. So, it's important to know the risks and take necessary precautions to prevent infections.

What diseases can pets carry?

Infectious diseases that move from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases or zoonoses. More than 70 pathogens of companion animals are known to be transmissible to people.

Sometimes, a pet that has a zoonotic pathogen may look sick. But often there may be no visible symptoms, making it easier for you to catch it, because you don't suspect your pet of harbouring germs.

Zoonoses can be transmitted directly from pets to humans, such as through contact with saliva, bodily fluids and faeces, or indirectly, such as through contact with contaminated bedding, soil, food or water.

Studies suggest the prevalence of pet-associated zoonoses is low. However, the true number of infections is likely underestimated since many zoonoses are not "notifiable", or may have multiple exposure pathways or generic symptoms.

Dogs and cats are major reservoirs of zoonotic infections (meaning the pathogens naturally live in their population) caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. In endemic regions in Africa and Asia, dogs are the main source of rabies which is transmitted through saliva.

Dogs also commonly carry Capnocytophaga bacteria in their mouths and saliva, which can be transmitted to people through close contact or bites. The vast majority of people won't get sick, but these bacteria can occasionally cause infections in people with weakened immune systems, resulting in severe illness and sometimes death. Just last week, such a death was reported in Western Australia.

Cat-associated zoonoses include a number of illnesses spread by the faecal-oral route, such as giardiasis, campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis and toxoplasmosis. This means it's especially important to wash your hands or use gloves whenever handling your cat's litter tray.

Cats can also sometimes transmit infections through bites and scratches, including the aptly named cat scratch disease, which is caused by the bacterium Bartonella henselae.

Both dogs and cats are also reservoirs for methicillin-resistant bacterium Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), with close contact with pets identified as an important risk factor for zoonotic transmission.

Birds, turtles and fish can also transmit disease

But it's not just dogs and cats that can spread diseases to humans. Pet birds can occasionally transmit psittacosis, a bacterial infection which causes pneumonia. Contact with pet turtles has been linked to Salmonella infections in humans, particularly in young children. Even pet fish have been linked to a range of bacterial infections in humans, including vibriosis, mycobacteriosis and salmonellosis.

Close contact with animals – and some behaviours in particular – increase the risk of zoonotic transmission. A study from the Netherlands found half of owners allowed pets to lick their faces, and 18% allowed dogs to share their bed. (Sharing a bed increases the duration of exposure to pathogens carried by pets.) The same study found 45% of cat owners allowed their cat to jump onto the kitchen sink.

Kissing pets has also been linked to occasional zoonotic infections in pet owners. In one case, a woman in Japan developed meningitis due to Pasteurella multicoda infection, after regularly kissing her dog's face. These bacteria are often found in the oral cavities of dogs and cats.

Young children are also more likely to engage in behaviours which increase their risk of getting sick from animal-borne diseases – such as putting their hands in their mouth after touching pets. Children are also less likely to wash their hands properly after handling pets.

Although anybody who comes into contact with a zoonotic pathogen via their pet can become sick, certain people are more likely to suffer from serious illness. These people include the young, old, pregnant and immunosuppressed.

For example, while most people infected with the toxoplasmosis parasite will experience only mild illness, it can be life-threatening or cause birth defects in foetuses.

What should I do if I'm worried about catching a disease from my pet? There are a number of good hygiene and pet husbandry practices that can reduce your risk of becoming sick. These include:

- washing your hands after playing with your pet and after handling their bedding, toys, or cleaning up faeces
- not allowing your pets to lick your face or open wounds
- supervising young children when they are playing with pets and when washing their hands after playing with pets
- wearing gloves when changing litter trays or cleaning aquariums
- wetting bird cage surfaces when cleaning to minimise aerosols
- keeping pets out of the kitchen (especially cats who can jump onto food preparation surfaces)
- keeping up to date with preventative veterinary care, including vaccinations and worm and tick treatments
- seeking veterinary care if you think your pet is unwell.

It is especially important for those who are at a higher risk of illness to take precautions to reduce their exposure to zoonotic pathogens. And if you're thinking about getting a pet, ask your vet which type of animal would best suit your personal circumstances.

By Sarah McLean and Enzo Palombo, Swinburne University of Technology, The Conversation)

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PVR - INOX CINEMAS {REX | NEXUS | ORION | VAISHNAVI | VEGA CITY | REGALIA | MARKETCITY | BHARTIYA | GT | AURA | SPIRIT | VR | UPTOWN | GLOBAL | FALCON CITY | MANTRI | CENTRAL | GARUDA | YELAHANKA | SWAGATH | BROOKFIELD | LIDO | NEXUS NEIGHBOURHOOD | SBR | RMZ | TUMKUR S MALL | MYSORE GARUDA - NEXUS - SATYAM - CENTRO | MANGALORE NEXUS | MANIPAL} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {MEENAKSHI | ETA | ORION EAST | LULU | SJR | MANGALORE} | GOPALAN CINEMAS {ARCADE | LEGACY | GRAND | SIGNATURE | INNOVATION} | INNOVATIVE {MARATHHALLI} | KINO CINEMA {SEEGEHALLI} | CINEPHILE {HSR LAYOUT} | ROCKLINE {JALAHALLI} | MUKTA A2 CINEMAS {UTTARAHALLI} | MIRAJ CINEMAS {SUNKADAKATTE} | DRC CINEMAS {MYSORE} | VISION CINEMAS {MYSORE} | BHARATH CINEMAS {MANGALORE | MANIPAL | KUNDAPUR | PADUBIDRE | PUTTUR | SHIMOGA} | CINE GALAXY {SURATKAL} | MOVIE TIME {DAVANGERE | BELLARY} | SANTHOSH THEATRE {K.G.ROAD} | ABHINAY {K.G.ROAD} | URVASHI THEATRE {BANGALORE} | MUKUNDA THEATRE {MARUTI SEVANAGAR} | SAMPIGE THEATRE {MALLESHWARAM} | CAUVERY THEATRE {SANKEY ROAD} | VEERESH THEATRE {MAGADI ROAD} | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG {M.G.RAOD} | SWAGATH POORNIMA {J.C.RAOD} | AMRUTH THEATRE {LINGARAJPURAM} | HMT THEATRE {JALAHALLI} | RENUKA PRASANNA THEATRE {J. P. NAGAR} | RAVI THEATRE {EEGIPURA} | VICTORY CINEMAS {KAMAKSHIPALYA} | VAIBHAV SANJAYNAGAR | BALAJI TAVAREKERE | LAKSHMI TAVAREKERE | SRINIVASA S.G.PALYA | ARUNA SRIRAMPURA | TULASI MARATHHALLI | VENKATESHWARA KENGERI | SRINIVASA GOWDANAPALYA | ESHWARI KATTRIGUPPE | RAVI EJIPURA | BALAJI DOMMASANDRA | GOTTIGERE LAKSHMI | ROBIN KENGERI | VAJRESHWAR ULLALA | PRUTHVI NAGAWARA | BALAJI VANNARPET | TIRUMALA AGARA | MANASA KONANKUNTE | SANDHYA MADIWALA | BRUNDA HONGASANDRA | MARUTI RAJGOPALNAGAR | RAJ MURALI KODIGEHALLI | SRINIVASA KADUGUDI | VINAYAKA HARINAGAR | VINAYAKA MYSORE ROAD | VIJAYALAKSHMI GARUDACHARPALYA | RADHAKRISHNA R.T.NAGAR | PUSHPANJALI B.N.PURO | VENKATESHWARA K.R.PURAM | VENKATESHWARA GOLARAHATTI | V.R.CINEMAS MALLATHAHALLI | KRISHNA BOMMANAHALLI | ANJAN JP MAGADI RD | SIDDHALINGESHWARA J.P. NAGAR | GOVARDHAN YESHWANTHPUR | ULLAS YESHWANTHPUR | CHANDRODAYA VIDYAPEETA CIRCLE | VAINIDHI SINGAPURA | PUSHPANJALI SULTANPALYA | AAKASH LAGGERE | VINAYAKA VARTHUR | BALAJI MAGADI | BENAKA MALUR | VANI KANAKPURA | SHARADA KOLAR | JAIBHARAT TUMKUR | SOUNDARYA MAHAL DODBALLAPUR | SLN HESARUGHATTA | ALANKAR HOSAKOTE I TRIMURTHY TIPTUR | ADARSHA CHINTAMANI | SHANKAR MADHUGIRI | VENKATESHWARA SHIDLAGHATTA | SANTOSH KGF | VARADARAJA MULBAGILU | SANGAM MYSORE | TIBBADEVI | WOODLANDS | BALAJI DELUXE | JAYALAKSHMI MANDYA | SHREE GURU HASSAN | BALAJI CHANNARAYAPATNA | KRISHNA KOLLEGALA | MARUTI BELLUR CROSS | SLN HOLENARSIPURA | LAL BAHADUR PANDAVAPURA | MAHAVEERA MADDUR | LEELA HUNSUR | SHARADA PRPOYAPATNA | COORG KUSHALNAGAR | YASHASWINI SHANIVARSANTHE | WOODLANDS SIDDHAPURA | BHARGAVI NANJANGUD | MALLIKARJUNA MANJUNATHA SHIMOGA | SRILEKHA CHIKMAGALUR | SATYA BHADRAVATHI | MALTHESH SHIKARIPURA | VIJAYALAKSHMI KADUR | VINAYAKA TARIKERE | SP CINEMAS ROOPAVANI MANGALORE | KALPANA UDUPI | PLANET KARKALA | RADHIKA | SHANKAR BAINDUR | VINAYAKA KUNDAPURA | NATARAJA SURATKAL | SANTOSH SULYA | BHARATH BELTHANGADI | VASANTHA DAVANGERE | BASAVESHWARA CHITRADURGA | RAGHAVENDRA BELLARY | NATRAJ | SARASWATHI HOSPET | JYOTHI HOSADURGA.

FARNAZ

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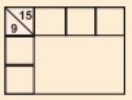
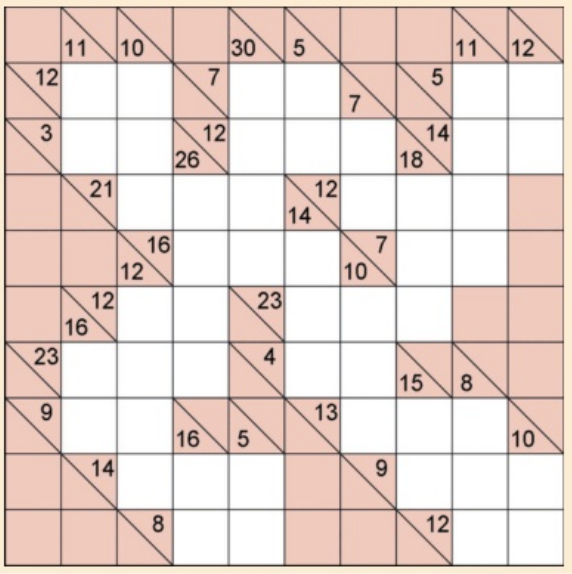
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

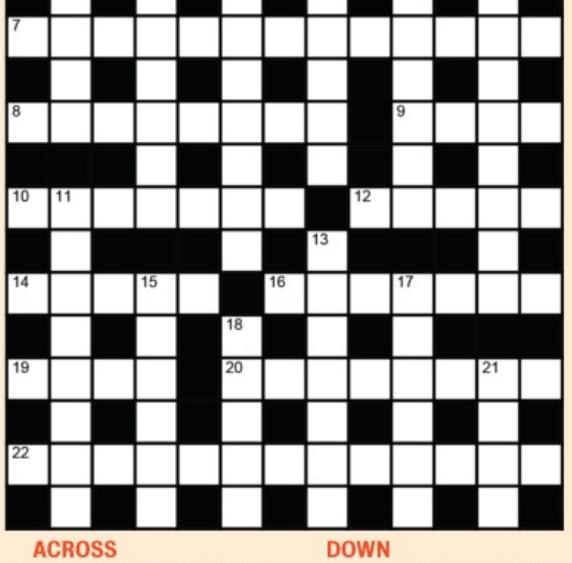


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Speedily and promptly (13)
8 Rebuffing, repulsing or blackballing (8)
9 ____ a chance : risked failure? (4)
10 Coal miner (7)
12 Mango for one, apple for another? (5)
14 Squalid or defiled (5)
16 Catches game or fish illegally (7)
19 Invitation letters (4)
20 Advance (8)
22 Big fire (13)

DOWN

1 Bovine traction animals (4)
2 Oral or spoken (6)
3 Having constraints (7)
4 Mr Starr of The Beatles (5)
5 Blade of a machine (6)
6 Element of the halogen family (8)
11 Exclusion (8)
13 Pays homage to (7)
15 Hint; covert advice (3,3)
17 Gem weights (6)
18 A steamed dosa (5)
21 Polluted air (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS G

SL LSB PE EL YZNQB OXNO XB PE SLO UPEOMZYBU YV ELJBOXPSH MSBRFBIOBU.

Linemaro

I need to hop over to Face book for a second to change my status to "smitten".

Mindchow

If work is so terrific, how come they have to pay you to do it?

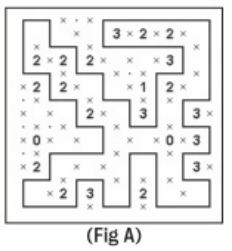
Joke of the day

Facebook weather forecast: We are expecting 2-3 feet of drama this evening with bullshit blowing in from all directions!

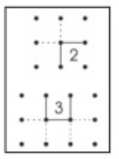
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

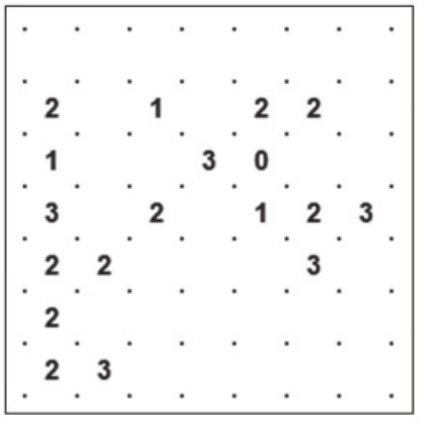


(Fig B) Not Allowed

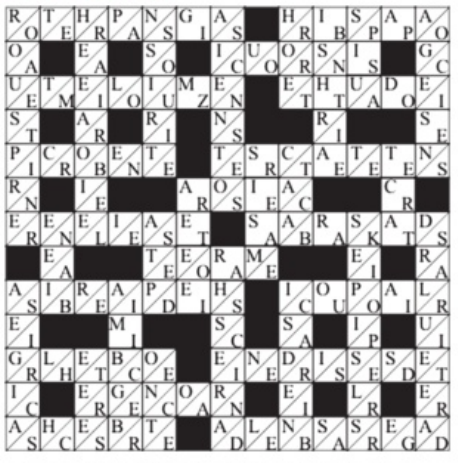
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



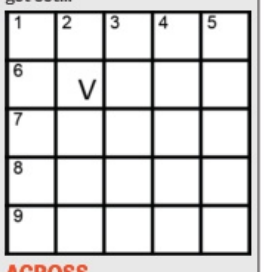
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Crops; 6 Value;
7 No reb; 8 It lee;
9 To Big

DOWN

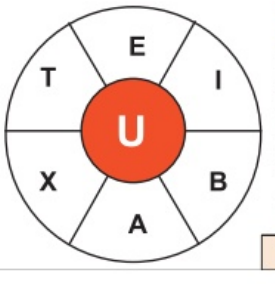
1 Be cub; 2 Olio V;
3 GI err; 4 An opt;
5 Leets

Mensapuzzle

What letter is two letters above the letter two letters to the left of the letter immediately above the letter three letters to the right of the letter Q?

A	B	C	D	E	
F	G	H	I	J	
K	L	M	N	O	
P	Q	R	S	T	
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7			3			6	
3			8		6			4
8		6				5		9
	8		7		9		2	
		5				1		
	4		1		3		9	
5		3				8		6
7			2		8			1
	6			7			4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 19
3 3 4 9

Medium = 7
2 4 5 5

Hard = 4
4 7 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

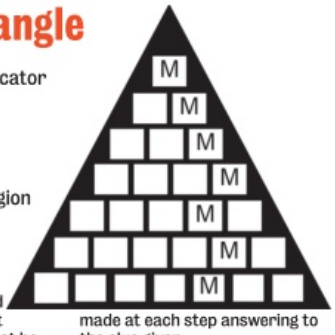
Differences: 1. Shirt pocket is missing. 2. Name on truck is different. 3. Car door handle is missing. 4. Gas tank door is larger. 5. Truck bumper is missing. 6. Clipboard is longer.

Riddler

In youth, content to sip just water, But later, oft I'm found in bars. Romantic? Yes. Oh the girls I've kissed! On some holidays I'm quite the star. But for many love is bittersweet, Though seldom will I cause a frown. And some would say I'm at my best At those times when the chips are down. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 13th letter
2 Morning hour indicator
3 Pal of Frodo
4 Fraud
5 Soothes
6 Asserts
7 Pertaining to Muhammad's religion



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HOWARD, WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR PANTS?
MY BACKUP CAMERA!
YOU PUT A BACKUP CAMERA ON YOUR PANTS?
AFFIRMATIVE!
WHERE'S THE MONITOR?
USUALLY IN A HALL!

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

WITH THE PROLIFERATION OF MULTIPLEX CINEMAS EVERYWHERE...
WE WANT THE VALENTINE TO BE A REFRESHING EXPERIENCE...
GRAND REOPENING LISA'S STORY
VALENT
AND I'M NOT REFERRING TO THE UPDATED UV-C AIR FILTRATION AND HVAC SYSTEMS.

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dull, as you might be a victim of hidden fears that are making you scared. You are not in a situation to trust anyone. It is advised to meditate and chant some prayers, which may help you overcome this hypothetical situation. With the help of the elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out of this messy situation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage, and your performance may be good in your job, possibly leading to some incentives or rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to find a suitable job in their domain. Lovebirds may enjoy their dating.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised not to expect too much from anyone around you, as it may lead to disappointment. You may engage in self exploration and self analysis, which will allow you to filter yourself. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and prepared to accept challenges.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may plan for a change of place, but it is advised to postpone any decisions related to migration. It is also recommended to avoid investing in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control, with the help of good advice from one of the elders, allowing you to manage the messy situation.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may expect a short business trip. You may also expect to receive rewards for your success in your domain, which will increase your respect among your peers. You may hear some good news from your siblings. Job seekers aiming for management positions may find success. Singles are likely to get engaged.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is a good day. You are blessed by Jupiter, and your wisdom may help you overcome difficult situations. You may also assist needy people and offer your opinion to your family or friends, increasing your prestige among them. You may have some differences of opinion with your spouse, which may affect your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may experience mood swings and feel dull. Your health may not be okay, affecting your day-to-day routine. You are advised to avoid rushed driving and adventure tours. Additionally, you may spend money on worthless things, which can affect your financial health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, blessings from elders may make you happy, and your investments may yield profits, converting losses into gains. Your savings may boost your bank balance, and you may also plan to invest for your kid's future. Enjoy some delicious food at home.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel detached from the responsibilities you have taken on. You may also spend more on purchasing worthless items, which could increase negativity in your home or office. It is advised to keep an eye on your opponents and rivals, as you may become a victim of a conspiracy. Be sure to read documents carefully before putting your signature.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by elders, and your patience is at its best. Your focus on your work may be excellent. Your parents' health is improving, and you are likely to spend time with your elders. You may also meet influential people who can help you professionally. Enjoy your romantic moments, which may increase harmony in your domestic life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be feeling spiritual and inclined to help needy people around you. You might also plan to donate some amount to charity or a religious place. Your good karma may help you succeed in difficult projects. You may feel a divine power around you, assisting you in unpredictable situations. You may also be attracted to the occult, and students are likely to enjoy in-depth study.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be happy and spread happiness around you. You may experience harmony in your domestic life and enjoy romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in making important decisions in your professional life. Expect new ventures or partnerships in your business or work.

KIDZONE

Rushil Gowda, 6 Years, Bishop Cotton Boys School

A Harin Raam, 7 Years, New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[3^2(3^2+4^2)+5^2(5+6^2+1)]/5^10^2
=[5^2(9+31)]/5^3^2^2
=40/20=2

STRIKE OUT

S	H	E	R	E	D	E	B	A	S	E	D			
I	R	E	C	O	N	I	R	E						
G	L	E	B	E	E	R	I	E	S	T				
E	M	C	A	P	U									
A	B	R	A	D	E	S	C	O	P	A	L			
E	T	E	A	M	I	A								
E	N	L	I	S	T	A	B	A	K	A	S			
N	I	A	S	I	A	R								
I	R	O	N	E	E	S	T	A	T	E	S			
U	T	R	R	N	E									
U	T	I	L	I	Z	E	E	T	U	D	E			
O	A	O	C	O	O	N	S	G						
R	E	H	A	N	G	S	H	I	P	P	O			

QUICK

N		F	M		S	S		G						
C	O	N	F	L	A	G	R	A	T	I	O	N		
	I		O		P		U		A		M			
R	S	V	P		P	R	O	G	R	E	S	S		
S		I		A		N		A						
D	I	R	T	Y		P	O	A	C	H	E	S		
	M			D		H				N				
C	O	L	L	I	E	R		F	R	U	I	T		
	A			T		O		E		R				
S	N	U	B	B	I	N	G		T	O	O	K		
E		R		M		N		T		U				
E	X	P	E	D	I	T	I	O	U	S	L	Y		
O		V		L		R		C			F			

MENSA PUZZLE
C
Chocolate

QUOTE UNCODE
No one is so brave that he is not disturbed by something unexpected.

RIDDLER

SUDOKU

1	6	8	3	7	5	9	4	2
7	9	4	2	6	8	3	5	1
5	2	3	9	1	4	8	7	6
2	4	7	1	8	3	6	9	5
6	8	1	7	5	9	4	2	3
9	3	5	6	4	2	1	8	7
3	5	2	8	9	6	7	1	4
8	1	6	4	2	7	5	3	9
4	7	9	5	3	1	2	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, AM, Sam, Scam, Cams, Claims, Islamic.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 4 + 9 + 3 = 19
Medium
5 + 4 + 5 / 2 = 7
Hard
4 x 5 - 7 - 9 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

C	O	R	P	S
U	V	E	A	L
B	O	R	N	E
E	L	I	T	E
B	I	G	O	T

BULL'S EYE
abut, BAUXITE, beau, beaux, tuba, tube

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 # Timothee, Kylie seal it with a kiss — Reality TV star Kylie Jenner and actor Timothee Chalamet were seen locking lips and hugging at Beyonce's show at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles

Work life balance

Vicky Kaushal on what he thinks about doing a film with wife Katrina

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina are one of the cutest couples in the tinsel town today. They are a filmy couple but they haven't yet done a film together. Opening up on the possibility of doing one, Vicky said he wants to play a silent guy as that is his strength while Katrina can play the role of a talkative person as that is who she is in real life. Talking more about it on a YouTube show 'Be A Man Yaar', Vicky shared what kind of roles he would want for himself and Katrina if they are cast together.

He said, "I keep telling her that if we get any film, then the character should also be such that we are playing to our strengths. Where I will be the silent guy, you will be the talkative person and we are coming together. So I think we will go in sync with what works for us."

He also said he often told Katrina that working with her would mean that the film will have two directors, she being the second one. He said, "I told her that on set, there will be two directors for me because one director on set and then one director would be there who would come home and say that this was not right and this was wrong and it should be like this and like that." What if Katrina and his roles are reversed in reel life. "That's a conflict you don't want to invite," quipped Vicky. "Because on set, all the professionalism will be there, where I will be the talkative person and she will be the quieter person. Then, after coming home, it will be the opposite and then it will be a conflict." — **ETimes**

Language no barrier

Actor Rakul Preet Singh, who has done several films in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil has opened up about her upcoming projects.

"This is a really exciting phase for me as an actor, I'm really glad to be getting opportunities to do films across languages. I'm immensely thankful for the diverse languages of cinema that allow me to speak to hearts across linguistic borders. It's a joy for me to connect with audiences from all walks of life through the magic of storytelling," she said.

Rakul said all her upcoming films are in different languages including Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and multilingual films like 'Indian 2' and 'Ayalaan.'

"There are many more films that are currently under wraps but will soon be out, and I cannot be more excited for it! I can't wait for my fans to experience it and I just hope that they continue showing me love like they always have," she said.

Singh who made her acting debut with Kannada film 'Gilli' (2009) has worked in Telugu film 'Venkatadri Express' and Tamil film 'Thadaiyara Thaakka'. She was next seen in Tamil and Telugu films like 'Loukyam' (2014), 'Pandaga Chesko' (2015), 'Sarrainodu' (2016), 'Dhruva' (2016), 'Nannaku Prematho' (2016).

She entered Hindi cinema with the comedy 'Yaariyan' (2014). She has primarily acted in Hindi films, such as the romantic comedy 'De De Pyaar De' (2019), the drama 'Runway 34' (2022), and 'Doctor G' (2022).

Rakul has 'Ayalaan,' 'Indian 2' and certain other films that are currently kept under wraps. **ANI**

A woman's life

Shilpa Shetty was highly missed on the big screen. However, here comes a piece of great news for her fans, the actress is back to entertain everyone on the silver screen with her upcoming movie 'Sukhee.' The trailer of the same has been released on Wednesday, it resonates with every housewife who left behind her spunk-filled old life to bear the responsibilities of her family.

Featuring Shilpa Shetty in and as 'Sukhee', the trailer opens with the tale of a woman who is grinding hard to be the perfect wife, daughter-in-law, and mother. She hardly gets any time for herself, and works day in and out without being appreciated for her efforts. But the plot takes a twist when she decides to take a break from her monotonous life and goes from Punjab to Delhi for her school reunion. On one hand, when Sukhee relives some pages from her old life, her family in Punjab understands what a mess their lives can be without that one woman.

Netizens seem to be relating to the movie already. Shilpa Shetty has shared the trailer on her social media handle, on which one of the netizens has commented - "This is the sad truth of Indian women! After marriage, one has to live for others!" Another user wrote - "The importance of a break in a woman's life !!" — **ETimes**

Joe Jonas, Sophie call it quits

After four years of marriage, singer Joe Jonas and actress Sophie Turner have filed for divorce, saying that their marriage is now "irretrievably broken".

The musician and the former 'Game of Thrones' star tied the knot in 2019 after nearly three years of dating and have two children together: Willa, 3, and a second daughter, identified in the divorce documents as D., 14 months, TMZ reported.

At this point, Joe is asking for joint custody of the couple's children. In the divorce documents, Joe and Sophie have a prenup, as the singer wants a judge to establish a parenting plan between him and 'The Dark Phoenix' actress, that allows for "frequent and continuing contact with both parties".

The couple first connected through their Instagram DMs in 2016. "We had a lot of mutual friends, and they'd been trying to introduce us," Sophie told Harper's Bazaar UK. A few months after connecting on social media, they officially began dating, with the singer even noting that was "willing to settle down for her". — **IANS**